

CAZON
EU 950
1996
Q71
C.2

Item no. 34431

Questions and Answers

Proposed Standards for New Landfill Sites

Q: How will these standards make siting a landfill any easier?

A: Clearly defined standards, combined with the improvements we made to the environmental assessment process, will make the approvals process more certain, more flexible and less costly.

Q: How many landfills in Ontario now meet these standards?

A: There are about 1,400 operating landfills across the province. Each has a certificate of approval which details specific requirements for each site.

The standards the Minister is announcing apply to new or expanded sites.

Q: Why is the ministry regulating landfill standards but not incinerator standards?

A: The ministry has tough incineration guidelines. They were developed to keep up with changing technology for incinerators which continues to improve. The technology for making landfills safe is becoming well-established and proven. These standards will, therefore, be enshrined by regulation.

Q: Why wouldn't a municipality simply ship its garbage to the U.S. rather than suffering the consequences and expense of building a local site?

A: No one would like to see that happen but municipalities must make their own decisions about what to do with their waste.

Municipalities would also miss out on tipping fees and be faced with the vagaries of the U.S. government's decisions on open or closed borders.

It is uncertainty and unpredictability of cost and performance that make export attractive. The ministry's standards and EA reform add certainty to the process.

Q: Why is this government imposing new regulations? Isn't the ministry reviewing all regulations for the purpose of reducing them?

A: The ministry is reviewing regulations to ensure they are relevant, clear and effective. Clearly defined standards will make the EA process more certain, less costly and more timely for proponents.



Copyright Provisions and Restrictions on Copying:

This Ontario Ministry of the Environment work is protected by Crown copyright (unless otherwise indicated), which is held by the Queen's Printer for Ontario. It may be reproduced for non-commercial purposes if credit is given and Crown copyright is acknowledged.

It may not be reproduced, in all or in part, for any commercial purpose except under a licence from the Queen's Printer for Ontario.

For information on reproducing Government of Ontario works, please contact ServiceOntario Publications at copyright@ontario.ca

Q: Why isn't the ministry concentrating on diversion and promoting, or regulating, more 3Rs activities?

A: This government strongly supports 3Rs activities over any form of disposal. Despite good 3Rs efforts, however, some waste disposal will still be needed.

We have the 3Rs regulations. They require municipalities over 5,000 population to have recycling programs, and the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors to undertake waste audits and waste reduction workplans.

The ministry is, however, currently reexamining waste management regulatory and approvals requirements under the Environmental Protection Act as part of the ministry's regulatory review process. The aim is to, among other things, improve environmental protectiveness and remove regulatory barriers for all acceptable waste management options including disposal and 3Rs.



96936000008250